Saipan Tribune CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIII, Issue No. 352 THURSDAY DECEMBER 18, 2003 www.saipantribune.com 50¢

INSIDE

2 SUNDAY, DOVEMBER 28,0004 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



	cars
mcdo	

WEATHER FORECAST

PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.



SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers. **Temperature:** Lows near 78. Highs near 86.



GUAM AND ROTA

Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some Cloudy and Dieczy with seattles and locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.

Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers. **Temperature:** Lows near 78. Highs near 86.



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.



POHNPEI

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: East at 10 kt.



YAP AND ULITHI Partly cloudy with

isolated showers. Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.



KOSRAE

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.



CHUUK

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms. Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



MAJURO

MAJUNG
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

	CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
2	Auckland	Cloudy	61F (16C)	49F (9C)
*	Beijing	Sunny	44F (7C)	26F (-3C)
	Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
	Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	72F (22C)
4	London, England	Cloudy	56F (13C)	45F (7C)
4	Los Angeles	Cloudy	69F (21C)	51F (11C)
4	Manila	Cloudy	88F (31C)	71F (22C)
*	Melbourne	Sunny	73F (23C)	54F (12C)
	Miami	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	75F (24C)
4	New York, NY	Cloudy	52F (11C)	48F (9C)
11	Osaka	Rain	54F (12C)	46F (8C)
4	Paris	Cloudy	53F (12C)	41F (5C)
1	Pusan	Rain	58F (14C)	43F (6C)
4	Rome	Partly Cloudy	55F (13C)	39F (4C)
4	Salem, Oregon	Rain	54F (12C)	38F (3C)
*	San Francisco	Sunny	64F (18C)	47F (5C)
1	Seoul	Rain	52F (11C)	45F (7C)
4	Tokyo	Rain	55F (13C)	49F (9C)
2	Washington, DC	Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)



tribune

Opinion



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John Pangelinan PUBLISHER Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

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△P The Associated Press	Pacific Islands News Association
EDITORIAL	
EDITORIAL	

Los Angeles Times



Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.



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Our World At War

GUIDELINES FOR FLOOD CLEANUP



10 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Good Housekeeping

Cooking with Chef Singh



The Good Life

verizon 60TH WW2 CMYK	TRIPLE J

The Good Life

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

ACROSS THE NATION		
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United States

Across the Globe

22 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

Frick unveils Raphael's 'La Fornarina'

triguing mysteries is the identity of the nude model for "La Fornarina," the baker's daughter, Raphael's sensuous masterpiece of Renaissance portraiture.

Was the undraped beauty Raphael's mistress, whose legendary sexual power reputedly led to his untimely death of a fever at age 37 in 1520? Or was she a comely artist's model of unknown background rendered as Venus in 16th-century trappings? Or was she the alluring bride of banker Agostino Chigi, financier of the Pope and the artist's greatest patron?

Historians have debated the portrait's identity for five centuries, and now an Italian expert claims to have the answer, which is revealed in a brochure accompanying the first U.S. showing of "La Fornarina."

Claudio Strinati, superintendent of the Nations Museums of Rome, contends that the portrait is misnamed from a never-proven relationship Raphael supposedly had with a sexy baker's daughter. Instead, she is Francesca Ardeasca on the eve of her marriage to Chigi, "dressed as a bride, at once provocative and chaste ... whose beauty, disturbing and appealing, captivated a man of immense power and wealth."

With a smile as enigmatic as the Mona Lisa to whom she has been compared, her portrait went on display Thursday at the Frick Collection, only the second time it has traveled outside Italy, from the National Gallery at Palazzo Barberini in Rome.

Measuring 34 inches by 24

One of art history's most in- 1/2 inches, the oil on wooden panel is on display in the Frick's Oval Room through Jan. 30, followed by stops at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Its only other showing abroad was in Paris in 2000.

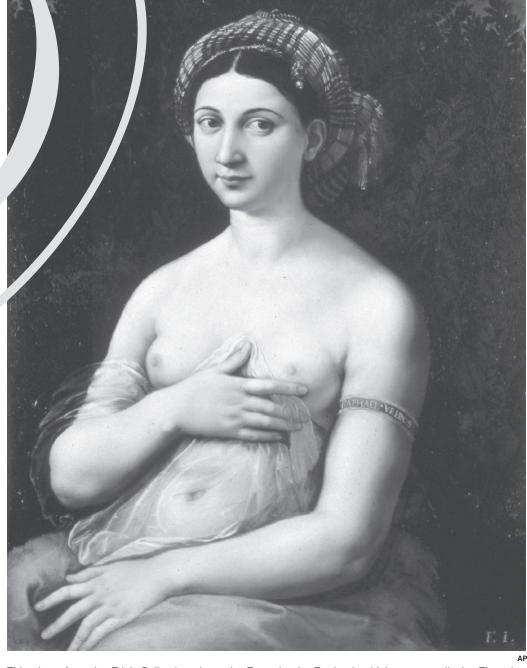
> "La Fornarina" was brought to New York under auspices of the Foundation of Italian Art and Culture, founded to bring great art from Italy's 3,000-year heritage to the American public.

> Maria Grazia Bernardini, director of the national gallery, said at a press viewing that the portrait was chosen because it is riveting enough to stand on its own. She noted its luminous condition after a recent restoration.

> Denying that the portrait was scandalous for its time, Bernardini described it as "very personal, very intimate" but intended for private viewing. A mystery since its completion around 1520, the work was first mentioned in a 1595 letter extolling private collections in Rome. It eventually came into possession of the aristocratic Barberini family, and is now a national treasure.

> The brunette with almond eyes and a then-fashionable turban clutches diaphanous fabric to her naked breasts and belly button. Her left arm rests across her lap, which is covered with a red gown. Around her left bicep is a tiny blue ribbon, embossed with gold letters spelling, "Raphael Vrbinas" (Raphael of Urbino)—a reference to the artist's birthplace, in 1483.

Scholars say the words could



This photo from the Frick Collection shows La Fornarina by Raphael, which went on display Thursday, Dec.2, 2004, at New York's Frick Collection, only the second time it has traveled outside Italy, from the National Gallery at Palazzo Barberini in Rome. Her identity is still an intriguing mystery.

mean either that the artist was proclaiming his possession of the woman, as her lover, or as a dedication or sign of respect, perhaps for the patron of the portrait.

One intriguing clue was uncovered during the recent cleaning efforts in Rome, revealing a small gold ring on the ring finger of the woman's left hand, suggesting she was engaged. But to whom?

Raphael never married, but accounts of his life say he had many liaisons with beautiful women, creating the story that La Fornarina was Margherita Luti, the daughter of a baker from Siena, supposedly his last paramour and muse.

Although her ambiguous smile has been compared to Mona Lisa's, no one knows whether Raphael saw Leonardo da Vinci's most famous portrait, even though the painters were contemporaries—and, along with Michelangelo, formed the great triumvirate of the High Renaissance.

Raphael is best known for his ethereal religious paintings of Jesus, the Madonna and other biblical scenes. But his mastery of oils and his worldiness took art to new levels.

"He ended as a supreme innovator, revolutionary both in his way of conceptualizing an artwork-without clear distinctions between sacred and profane—and his way of representing characters and landscape," Strinati writes, citing his use of shadow and light to propel art far beyond traditions of the simply representational. (AP)

liams takes over 'Nightly News'

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Brokaw's successor is a NAS-CAR dad who considers pizza night with the kids sacred—thin crust, please-and listened to hundreds of hours of White House tapes from the Johnson administration for fun. Brian Williams, whose tenure began Thursday, is no stranger to regular viewers of NBC's "Nightly News," but his success depends on whether viewers grow to know and like him as much as his predecessor.

Brokaw anchored his last "Nightly News" Wednesday, leaving on a ratings high with 15.4 million viewers.

Washington bureau chief Tim Russert came to New York for Williams' first show, and was interviewed on the set about the political situation in Iraq. Williams made no mention of the transition until the final minutes.

Then he paid tribute to Brokaw, saying his predecessor was headed out on the world's "most carefully planned vacation. He said he was proud to represent NBC News in fulfilling a dream he had since a boy.

"Thanks to all of your for watching," Williams said. "We'll continue to work each and every day to earn and preserve your loyalty. It means so much to have you with us as we continue a great tradition, starting tonight.'

Williams, 45, has been Brokaw's chief sub since joining NBC News in 1993. He gave up his nightly cable newscast and took on several prominent reporting assignments during the carefully planned transition, which was announced in May 2002. He had a feel-good story about a soldier recovering from war injuries air during Brokaw's last broadcast.

The Elmira, N.Y., native climbed the local television ladder from Pittsburg, Kan., to WCBS-TV in New York City, where he caught the eye of NBC executives.

He considers Brokaw his mentor, and his years as White House correspondent during the Clinton administration a journalistic crucible.

His hobby is presidential history, and he's read hundreds of books on the topic. Through a source at the Lyndon Johnson presidential library, he borrowed tapes of the former president's White House meetings and listened to them in the car from his Connecticut home to MSNBC's New Jersey studio—600 hours of them.

He has two teenage children, and just bought the "Shrek 2" DVD for family viewing. Sunday is make-your-own pizza night at the Williams home.

Like many parents, he cringed when the racy "Desperate Housewives" skit preceded a football game.

"People report breathtakingly about how cultural issues were important in this past election." he said. "Well, I could have told you that. That's my kitchen.

That's what we talk about."

As an illustration of the nation's geographic divide, he frequently tells about interviewing a hunter from Michigan who said she can't wait to "take the shot and provide for my family." Blue state residents chuckle at the story; red staters say yeah, what's your point?

It's incumbent upon someone who does his job to understand both sides by getting out and talking to people, he said.

Approaching the heartland appeal of Brokaw, the South Dakota native who wrote "The Greatest Generation," will be key for Williams. It didn't seem coincidental that he interviewed the Rev. Billy Graham for a profile last month.

The anchor transition has led ABC and NBC to launch a presidential-style campaign for viewers; ABC is hoping its second-place evening newscast with Peter Jennings can cut into the lead NBC has generally held since 1997.



NBC Nightly News anchor Tom Brokaw, right, and his successor Brian Williams, pose for a photo in the NBC news department in New York, prior to Brokaw's last broadcast, Wednesday Dec. 1, 2004.

Officials raid Jackson's ranch again

LOS OLIVOS, Calif. (AP)— Sheriff's investigators with a new search warrant raided Michael Jackson's Neverland estate again Friday, just weeks before the pop star is scheduled to go on trial on charges of child molestation.

Authorities would not say why they returned more than a year after dozens of investigators first raided the storybook estate while they were still drawing up charges against Jackson.

In a statement, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department said only that the search was "part of an ongoing criminal investigation." Spokesman Sgt. Chris Pappas said investigators entered Neverland at 9 a.m. and

remained there hours later.

Jackson attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. had no comment.

Attorneys on both sides of the case are barred from commenting by a court gag order.

Jackson was leaving Neverland when the officers arrived, and did not stay around, said a source close to the family, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Jackson, 46, was charged in December 2003 with molesting a boy and plying him with alcohol. His trial is set to begin Jan. 31.

A new search so late in the proceedings is very unusual, said a former federal prosecutor who has been following the case.

"It may mean that the witnesses they are preparing for I'd say it was planted. So I'm

trial now are remembering things at the ranch that they did not mention before," said Laurie Levenson, a professor at Loyola Law School. "They may want to follow up on how certain things looked."

However, she said the search could also be connected to a dispute that has been going on between the prosecution and defense over the sharing of evidence. The defense has been resisting turning over material to the prosecution.

Levenson said if the search yields any physical evidence, it could be of dubious value. "At this stage, if they found anything, if I were Jackson's folks

not so convinced how valuable this would be," she said.

The late-stage search could also help the defense win a delay, Levenson suggested. "How do you go to trial in a case when they are still serving search warrants?" she said.

Neverland, set amid the emerald hills and horse ranches about 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles, was first searched in November 2003. At least 60 investigators from the Sheriff's Department and district attorney's office took part.

The theme park-like estate has a mansion, zoo, bumper cars, a merry-go-round and Ferris wheel. Jackson hosted many children's parties there.

Ashlee Simpson to perform live for AC

NEW YORK (AP)—Ashlee to doing this special Simpson is getting behind the mic again—only this time, she's promising it will be live. Simpson, whose lip-synch-gone-awry on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" in October made her an instant punch line, will headline a concert for AOL Monday in Los Angeles, AOL told The Associated Press Friday.

"I'm really looking forward

AOL concert," said Simpson, 19, in a statement. "I had so much fun recording for 'Sessions' "at" AOL, and performing for a live audience of so many people online is going to be really exciting."

The concert will be held at



Simpson

the El Rey Theatre and broadcast live on AOL's radio network and also for its broadband customers.

Previous performers at AOL's concerts have included Usher, Nelly, Toby Keith and Avril Lavigne.

Simpson's debut album, "Autobiography," has sold more than 2 million copies, and this week, MTV announced it was renewing her reality show, "The Ashlee Simpson Show," for a second season.

Simpson is the younger sister of Jessica Simpson. MTV also has confirmed that it is renewing "Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica," the reality series featuring Jessica and husband Nick Lachey, for a third season.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Alpha female Ami ousted on 'Survivor'

YORK (AP)—The queen of the all-female alliance on CBS' "Survivor: Vanuatu—Islands of Fire" has been dethroned. Last week, part of the alliance mutinied after Twila Tanner initiated a voting bloc with the game's lone remaining male, Chris Daugherty. On Thursday's episode, the alliance's leader, Ami Cusack, was voted off the show.

"Last night, I beat up every pillow in my hotel room," Cusack told The Associated Press during a phone interview Friday. "It was so frustrating. I believed so much in Twila. I was doing the 'Braveheart' deal. We were going to the death."

Lea "Sarge" Masters and James "Chad" Crittenden, male victims of the alliance and now jury members, told the AP upon their dismissals that Cusack was a "man-hater" and "anti-man."

"I love men. I have a few friends who know some men," Cusack said jokingly.

Tom Hanks almost 'sleepless' in Belgium

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)— News that actor Tom Hanks plans to attend remembrance ceremonies for the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge sent tourism officials scurrying to find him a place to stay since all hotel rooms have been taken.

Tourism officials said Friday that Hanks, star of the Steven Spielberg film "Saving Private Ryan," apparently planned to

stay Dec. 15-19 in the southeast town of Bastogne, where commemoration services will be held for one of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

However, officials said they hadn't received final confirmation from Hanks that he would join a 25-member veterans group that made the lodging request on his behalf.

Hotels had sold out across the Ardennes region for over a year ahead of the anniversary, officials said.

"Last week we got a request for a room from American actor Tom Hanks, but we didn't have any more rooms," Emilie Louvignie of the Bastogne tourism office told Belgian daily De Morgen. "We made an urgent call around town to see if any one could put him up, and we found a place he could rent downtown."

Bob Dylan says he's not a prophet

NEW YORK (AP)—Bob Dylan's songs may have spoken for a generation in the 1960s, but he never saw himself as more than a singer-songwriter.

"You're the prophet. You're the savior.' I never wanted to be a prophet or a savior," Dylan tells Ed Bradley on CBS' "60 Minutes." Excerpts of Sunday night's scheduled broadcast were released in advance by the network.

"Elvis maybe. I could see myself becoming him," Dylan says. "But prophet? No."

The idea of such a perception made him feel like an "impostor," he says.

"It was like being in an Edgar Allan Poe story and you're just not that person everybody thinks you are, though they call you that all the time."

He added, "If you examine the songs I don't believe you're going find anything in there that says that I'm a spokesman for anybody or anything, really."

One of Dylan's songs, "Like a Rolling Stone," was recently named the top song of all-time by Rolling Stone magazine.

Grimes reflects on 'Wonderful Life'

LANCASTER, N.Y. (AP)— Who hasn't spent part of a holiday season watching "It's a Wonderful Life"? Even the most devoted fans of Frank Capra's 1946 classic film might find something new in its blackand-white images after listening to Karolyn Grimes.

She played Zuzu Bailey, the little girl with the memorable movie-ending line: "Look, Daddy: Teacher says that every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings."

Grimes, 64, said she's seen the movie, starring James Stewart and Donna Reed, so many times she's beyond paying attention to the story and acting and instead focuses on the subtleties others may overlook.

"Like for instance, there's a point where Mary and George are asked to go to Florida with Sam Wainwright and his wife. Very subtly, (Mary) rubs her tummyand that night she tells him she's on the nest," Grimes said.

Grimes has a whole presenta-

tion about such moments, which she attributes to "the magic of Frank Capra.'

'So many people love this film," she said during a stop in this Buffalo suburb, where she introduced the Lancaster Opera House's stage production of the story. "It's such a part of the Christmas celebration nowadays that it's become part of our culture."

John McEnroe's talk show is canceled

NEW YORK (AP)—From a TV standpoint, it was a straightsets loss: John McEnroe's talk show was axed Friday by CNBC after barely six months on the air. McEnroe may have had more people watch his tennis matches—in person—than watched his talk show some nights.

The show was averaging 75,000 viewers a night, less than half of the viewership for business programming in the time slot before "McEnroe" went on the air. On some nights, it didn't get a Nielsen Media Research rating at all, meaning the audience was too small to measure.

It will be replaced next month by "The Big Idea," a talk show with advertising executive Donny Deutsch as host, which has run on CNBC occasionally as a special.

CNBC is happier with comic Dennis Miller, whose talk show is doing better in the ratings.

CNBC has been trying for the past two years to create a prime-time identity. Most of its business-oriented viewers flee when the workday's done.

Never take the bait dangled by online 'phishing' scams

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: You printed a letter from "Eugene in N.J." about a letter he received saying that he was "the sole beneficiary of a \$12 million estate." He said he responded by sending them information on a bank account that he "no longer does business with, but had a \$2.83 balance remaining." That was the wrong move!

Now the thieves have his name, address and account number. It doesn't matter if the account was closed or open—thieves



counterfeit checks using the information he gave them. Scans such as "Eugene" described are a common way identity thieves gather information. Unfortunately, the actions he took in his anger and frustration have exposed him to identity theft. It is important to understand that e-mail scams are sent out to millions of people. If you answer—even to say stop writing—you will be put on a "sucker" list.

Some common scams people need to avoid:

- (1) No company is going to call or e-mail you to verify an account, ask for your Social Security number, or any bank or credit card numbers, PERIOD! This is called "phishing." Account verification scams look very real, but are ALL scams. Do not answer them no matter how convinced you are that it is a real company.
- (2) You have NOT won a lottery in the Netherlands, or Canada, or anywhere else, if you didn't first buy a ticket here
- (3) Question any company that offers you a prize, but asks for a fee or your Social Security number, and verify the existence of that company through the Better Business Bureau, and confirm independently that the prize is real.
- (4) A stranger did not die and leave you money.
- (5) The Nigerian scam has now morphed into a creative writing exercise about all kinds of people needing your help to transfer money from one account to another. This practice is called money laundering, and it is illegal.
- (6) You may also be telephone-scammed with similar offers. Be on the alert for suspicious callers, and never give out your Social Security number or a credit card number to anyone who calls you.

Thank you, Abby, for helping your readers to understand how thieves steal a person's identity.

LINDA FOLEY, CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IDENTITY THEFT RESOURCE CENTER

DEAR LINDA: Thank you for sharing this valuable information with my readers and me. Readers, my experts tell me the only safe way to deal with a scam is to either hit the "delete" key, or forward it to the Federal Trade Commission at spam(at)uce.gov and THEN delete it. As tempting as it may seem, do not engage any of the scammers in a dialogue.

The Identity Theft Resource Center is a nonprofit program, based in San Diego, that is grant- and donation-funded. Its mission is to help victims of identity theft and consumers. For further information on scams, including examples of common scams, visit the Web site at www.idtheftcenter.org.

CONFIDENTIAL TO "DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF IN TUCSON, ARIZ.": Don't be so hard on yourself. Even a clock that isn't working is right twice a day.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Magic push past Knicks, 104-98



NEW YORK (AP)—Cuttino Mobley scored 34 points in his second game back from a groin injury and made two key hustle plays down the stretch Friday to lead the

Orlando Magic past the New York Knicks 104-98.

In a matchup of first-place teams, Orlando's guards were better than New York's at the key moments. Mobley had an offensive rebound and a steal off an inbounds pass during the final 45 seconds to help snap New York's six-game home winning streak.

"That was timing. I watched his eyes," Mobley said of his deflection, which led to a steal and prevented the Knicks from having a chance for a tying 3-pointer.

Mobley made six 3-pointers and shot 10-for-21 overall, while Steve Francis had 26 points, six assists, seven rebounds and four steals.

Stephon Marbury led New York with 28 points, but the 90-percent freethrow shooter missed a pair that would have given the Knicks the lead with 47 seconds left.

Wizards 114, Hawks 90

Ini Atlanta, Larry Hughes scored 19 points and Juan Dixon added 17, and Washington beat Atlanta to go four games over .500 for the first time in almost three years.

The Hawks' eighth straight loss left them with their worst record (2-13) after 15 games since moving to Atlanta in 1968. The 2000-01 Hawks were 2-12 before winning their third game.

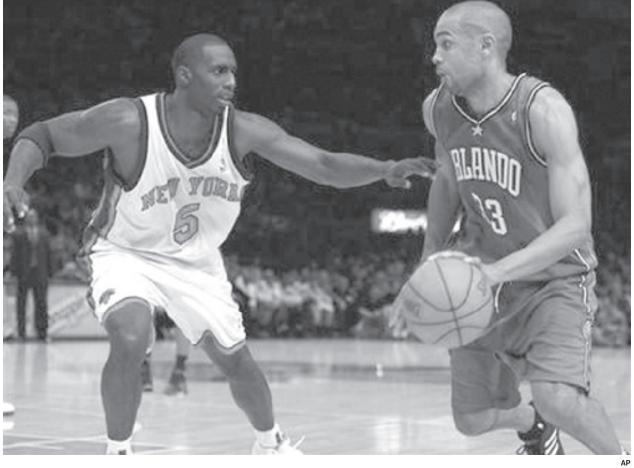
Washington (9-5) had not been four games over .500 since Feb. 15, 2002, when it was 27-23.

Antoine Walker had 26 points for the Hawks.

Celtics 91, Raptors 89

In Boston, Gary Payton saved his biggest contribution for last, going scoreless for the first time in Boston but stealing the ball in the final seconds to help the Celtics beat Toronto.

Mark Blount, who had 22 points, hit the go-ahead basket with 34 seconds left and Paul Pierce added two free throws to give Boston a four-point lead with 24 seconds to play.



Orlando Magic's Grant Hill drives past New York Knicks' Tim Thomas during the second half at New York's Madison Square Garden Friday Dec. 3, 2004.

Payton was 0-for-6, he did not shoot a free throw and had just one rebound to go with his five assists. Pierce scored 20 for the Celtics. Jalen Rose had 19 points for the Raptors.

Grizzlies 94, 76ers 86

In Memphis, Tennessee, Pau Gasol had 34 points and 15 rebounds to lead Memphis over Philadelphia for its first win under new coach Mike Fratello.

Gasol hit 12 of 19 shots from the field as Memphis ended a week of coaching disarray and a five-game losing streak.

Philadelphia lost its third straight, and has lost six straight road games.

Fratello was hired Thursday to replace Hubie Brown, who retired Nov. 27 for unspecified health problems.

Mike Miller added 19 points for Memphis.

Allen Iverson had 25 points and seven steals for the Sixers.

Heat 105, Bulls 81

In Chicago, reserve Christian Laettner scored 23 points, Eddie Jones 21 and Shaquille O'Neal 18 as Miami downed Chicago.

When O'Neal went to the bench with his fourth foul at the 3:29 mark of the third quarter, the Heat had a 72-64 lead. Instead of struggling, they went on a 14-4 run—including 10 straight to pull away.

Kirk Hinrich scored 17 points, but was scoreless in the second half, and rookie Chris Duhon added a careerhigh 15 for the Bulls, now 2-11.

Spurs 80, Pistons 77

In San Antonio, Ben Wallace's return from a six-game suspension couldn't help Detroit overcome San Antonio, with Tony Parker scoring 20 points and Brent Barry hitting two critical free throws in the final seconds for the Spurs.

Chauncey Billups scored all of his 18

points in the fourth quarter, including a 3-pointer that cut the lead to 78-77 with 7.9 seconds left.

But the Pistons fouled Barry three seconds later and he hit both free throws for his only points of the night.

Malik Rose stole the inbounds pass, but missed both free throws. Rasheed Wallace's desperation 3-pointer missed at the final buzzer.

Ben Wallace was back in the lineup after his suspension for his role in last month's brawl with the Indiana Pacers and fans. Wallace played 33 minutes but had a miserable night, finishing with five points on 2-of-9 shooting with nine rebounds.

Tim Duncan added 18 points and 18 rebounds for the Spurs.

Timberwolves 97, Suns 93

In Phoenix, Kevin Garnett had 23 points, 19 rebounds and eight assists, as Minnesota ended Phoenix' nine-game winning streak.

Sam Cassell scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter to help the Timberwolves win their fourth in a row and hand the Suns just their third defeat in 16 games. Garnett had 11 offensive boards, and has 65 rebounds in the last four games.

Latrell Sprewell scored 22, making 4-of-5 3-point shots.

Amare Stoudemire had 28 points but only four rebounds, Shawn Marion 21 points and 18 rebounds and Steve Nash 22 points and eight assists for the Suns, who were 2-for-18 from 3-point range.

Kings 113, Pacers 87

In Sacramento, California, Chris Webber made his first eight shots and scored 29 points to lead Sacramento past Indiana for its 10th victory in 11 games.

Brad Miller had 17 points and 13 rebounds against his former Indiana teammates. Sacramento outrebounded Indiana 57-28, even holding the Pacers without a rebound for the first 7 1/2 minutes of the fourth quarter.

Mike Bibby had 12 points and six assists for the Kings, who took a 28-point lead in the third quarter with a 24-5 run. Sacramento's starters all scored in double figures, then sat out the fourth.

Since Indiana beat the Kings 96-87 on March 3, 2002, Sacramento is 35-1 against Eastern Conference teams at home.

Jamaal Tinsley scored 21 points for the Pacers, who lost their third straight with just 10 players in uniform.

Lakers 97, Warriors 88

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant, hardly a factor for the first three quarters, had 10 points, 10 assists and a season-high 12 rebounds for his second triple-double of the season and the Los Angeles Lakers beat Golden State.

Caron Butler scored a season-high 27 points and Chris Mihn had 15 points and 10 rebounds, helping hand the Warriors their fourth straight loss. The Lakers have won 19 of their last 21 home games against Golden State dating to 1993-94.

Jason Richardson scored 22 points for the Warriors and Troy Murphy had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

BA, union debate brawl before arbitrator

By CHRIS SHERIDAN AP BASKETBALL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Two weeks after the fact, lawyers for the NBA and the players' union had their own little brawl. Attorneys for the two sides fought before an arbitrator and in federal court Friday, arguing over what avenues of appeal should be employed for the four players suspended by commissioner David Stern for fighting with fans during a Nov. 19 Pacers-Pistons game.

Arbitrator Roger Kaplan ruled that he has jurisdiction to decide whether the brawl-related suspensions given to Ron Artest and other players can be appealed to someone other than Stern, and the NBA responded by filing a lawsuit in federal court challenging the arbitrator's authority.

Kaplan scheduled a hearing for next

Thursday, although the matter will next Court in Manhattan.

Also, the Oakland County prosecutor's office said it believes authorities have identified each of the Indiana Pacers players and fans who violated state law in a brawl last month at The Palace, though it will not release identities until charges are filed.

The NBA's suit named the National Basketball Players Association, Artest, Stephen Jackson, Anthony Johnson and Jermaine O'Neal as defendants and said they improperly tried to require the NBA to litigate the propriety of the suspensions before a grievance arbitrator.

The NBA contends the commissioner has sole authority under collective bargaining rules for imposing discipline on players for on-court behavior.

The players' union argues it never favor, he would then hear arguments view excessive, disciplinary decision be contested Monday in U.S. District agreed to the spirit of any rule that on whether the commissioner had just is a basic right under our collective would give the commissioner un- cause to levy some of the longest fight- bargaining agreement, as well as a checked power to levy suspensions of the length he gave to Artest (the remainder of the 2003-04 season). Jackson (30 games), O'Neal (25 games) and Anthony Johnson (five games) for fighting with fans during a wild melee at the end of an Indiana Pacers-Detroit Pistons game two weeks ago.

"Ultimately, one way or another, that issue is likely to get decided in federal court," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said. "Our view was (the arbitrator) should not even look at it, so we didn't submit anything."

In his ruling, Kaplan indicated the hearing would first decide the arbitability of the union's attempt to challenge Stern's penalties.

If he were to rule in the union's

related suspensions in league history.

The union said the suspended players would travel to New York for the hearing, although the league could ask for a temporary restraining order halting any such proceeding.

After initially setting a hearing date of Wednesday, Kaplan held a conference call with both sides and rescheduled it for Dec. 9-10, putting it in conflict with a previously scheduled session to negotiate a labor agreement to replace the one expiring after this season.

Union director Billy Hunter issued a statement saying he was pleased with Kaplan's ruling.

"The ability to have a neutral party review a precedent-setting, and in our

fundamental principle of our system of justice," Hunter said.

The union did not immediately comment on the NBA's ensuing lawsuit.

The Oakland County prosecutor's office said Friday it believes authorities have identified all of the players and fans who violated state law in the brawl. Police expect to present the case to prosecutors Monday.

Auburn Hills police Lt. James Manning said Friday that investigators planned to continue trying to identify all fans who entered the court during the fight and those who dumped drinks and debris on players as they exited the floor. Those fans will be charged under a local ordinance that prohibits that kind of behavior at a sporting event.

Lawyer criticizes leak of Bonds testimony

CO (AP)—The leak of Barry Bonds' grand jury testimony

in the investigation of a steroid-distribution ring was an attempt to smear the San Francisco Giants slugger, his lawyer said Friday.

Bonds testified to a grand jury that he used a clear substance and a cream given to him by a trainer who was indicted in a steroid-distribution ring, but said he didn't know they were steroids, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Friday.

Bonds told the federal grand jury last year that Greg Anderson, his personal trainer and childhood friend, told him the substances he used in 2003 were the nutritional supplement flaxseed oil and a rubbing balm for arthritis, according to a transcript of his testimony reviewed by the Chronicle.

The substances Bonds described were similar to ones known as "the clear" and "the cream," two steroids from the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative at the center of the steroid scandal.

Bonds' attorney, Michael Rains, said the leak of the testimony was an attempt to discredit his client. Grand jury transcripts are sealed and the Chronicle did not say who showed them the documents.

Rains described Anderson and Bonds as close friends who

GAINESVILLE,

Fla. (AP)—After

had been training together for of developments in the BALCO about the last four years.

"Greg knew what Barry's demands were. Nothing illegal," Rains said at a news conference in Oakland. "This is Barry's best friend in the world. Barry trusted him. He trusts him today. He trusts that he never got anything illegal from Greg Anderson."

Even if the substances Bonds took were steroids, Rains said they were not banned by baseball at the time and the slugger believed they were natural. Bonds also maintains the substances did nothing to aid his rise as one of the game's greatest home run hitters, Rains said.

"Barry was tested several times this year and the results of those tests were negative," said Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris.

"He put together statistically one of the most remarkable seasons ever," Borris said in an interview. "There are people in this world whose sole purpose is to try and figure out ways on how to undermine the accomplishments of others."

Giants spokesman Blake Rhodes said the team wouldn't comment and directed all questions to the commissioner's office.

Serra, Anderson's Tony lawyer, said Anderson "never knowingly provided illegal substances to anyone."

The revelation of Bonds' grand jury testimony was one of a series his 73-homer season.

probe, which led to indictments against four men in February.

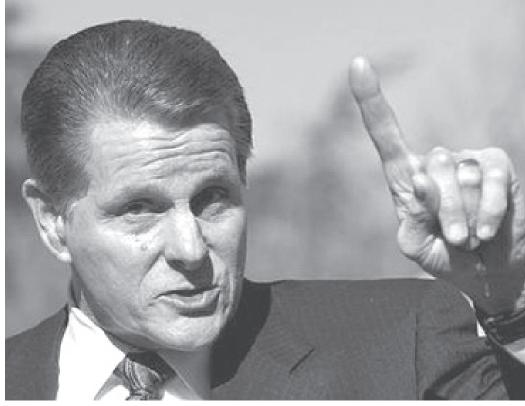
ABC News and ESPN the Magazine interviewed BALCO founder Victor Conte, one of those charged in the case, and he said that he watched Olympic track star Marion Jones inject herself in the leg with human growth hormone. Jones' attorneys denied she ever used performance-enhancing drugs. Conte's interview with ABC's "20/20" program aired Friday night.

Dozens of elite athletes testified before the grand jury last year, including baseball stars Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield, and track stars Marion Jones, Kelli White and Tim Montgomery.

But Bonds is the biggest star of all, the holder of baseball's single-season home run record of 73 in 2001 and the man who could break Hank Aaron's career homer mark of 755 as early as next year. Bonds ended last season with 703 homers and won his record seventh NL Most Valuable Player award.

It is uncertain what punishment, if any, Bonds could receive from baseball, which didn't have penalties for steroid use until last year.

Bonds said he never paid Anderson for drugs or supplements but did give the trainer \$15,000 in cash in 2003 for weight training and a \$20,000 bonus after



Mike Raines, lawyer for San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds, makes a statement to reporters in Oakland, Calif., on Friday, Dec. 3, 2004.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	w	L	Pct	GB
New York	8	7	.533	_
Boston	7	8	.467	1
Philadelphia	6	9	.400	2
Toronto	7	11	.389	2 1/2
New Jersey	3	12	.200	5
Southoast	Divid	oion		

Southeast	DIVIS	sion		
Orlando	10	5	.667	_
Miami	11	6	.647	_
Washington	9	5	.643	1/:
Charlotte	3	10	.231	6
Atlanta	2	13	.133	8

Central Division

Ochiciai Di	,,,,,,,,,,			
Cleveland	10	6	.625	_
Indiana	10	6	.625	_
Detroit	7	8	.467	2 1/2
Milwaukee	4	9	.308	4 1/2
Chicago	2	11	.154	6 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest	Divi	sion		
San Antonio	14	3	.824	_
Dallas	11	6	.647	3
Houston	6	11	.353	8
Memphis	6	11	.353	8
New Orleans	1	13	.071	11 1/2

Northwest Division

Portland	8	6	.571	4 1/2
Denver	8	7	.533	5
Utah	8	8	.500	5 1/2
Pacific Divi	sion			
Pacific Divise Phoenix	sion 13	3	.813	_
			.813 .688	<u>-</u>
Phoenix	13	3		- 2 3

10 5

.667

.588 31/2

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Lakers 10 7

Golden State 3

Boston 91, Toronto 89 Washington 114, Atlanta 90 Orlando 104. New York 98 San Antonio 80, Detroit 77 Memphis 94, Philadelphia 86 Miami 105, Chicago 81 Minnesota 97, Phoenix 93 Sacramento 113, Indiana 87 L.A. Lakers 97, Golden State 88

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

EAST

Amherst 87 Westfield St 82 OT Brown 79, Binghamton 77 Buffalo St. 65, Oneonta 62 Fredonia St. 95, New Paltz 77 Hunter 83, Baruch 80, OT John Jay 60, Vassar 53 La Roche 62, Hilbert 48 Lincoln, Pa. 85, Phila. Bible 68 Oswego St. 85. Cazenovia 53 Palm Beach Atlantic 116, Wesley 57 Penn St. 94, Lock Haven 46 Pitt.-Greensburg 79, Penn St. Behrend 75, OT Rider 76, Marist 75 Rowan 83, Valley Forge Christian 50 Springfield 60, W. New England 58 Williams 93, Mass. College 68

SOUTH

Eckerd 80, North Florida 66 Flagler 86, Ferrum 69 Georgetown, Ky. 105, Strayer 67 Louisiana-Monroe 63, Samford 56 Montevallo 114, Stillman 88 Sewanee 56, Hendrix 54 Tulane 73, Loyola, N.O. 50 Valdosta St. 71, Shaw 65 Virginia 89, Auburn 87

MIDWEST Benedictine.III. 100, Washington, Mo. 95

Bethel, Minn. 112, Minn.-Morris 79 Cedarville 100, Point Park 87 Central St., Ohio 86, Urbana 83 Concordia, St.P. 76, Upper Iowa 68 Dickinson St. 82, Si Tanka-Huron 67 Illinois College 78, Principia 58 Judson 69. St. Francis. III. 68 Lake Erie 75, Medaille 51 Memphis 62, Purdue 51 Minn.-Duluth 95, Northland 39 Minn.-Mankato 92, Winona St. 84 Minot St. 78, Dakota St. 69 Missouri Baptist 88, Franciscan 76 Mount Vernon Nazarene 86, Indiana-Northwest 62 Nebraska-Omaha 61, Minn,-Moorhead 60 Ohio Dominican 85, Seton Hill 66 Oklahoma Baptist 97, William Jewell 92 Olivet Nazarene 92, McKendree 86 S. Dakota Tech 57, Mayville St. 54 Shawnee St. 84. Notre Dame Coll. 79. OT South Dakota 71, SW Minnesota 55 St. Ambrose 92, III.-Springfield 64 Valley City St. 66, Black Hills St. 48 W. Illinois 80, Harris-Stowe 43 Waldorf 71. Cent. Iowa 67 Wheaton, III. 91, Calvin 87, OT Wilberforce 60, Geneva 54

SOUTHWEST

No scores reported from the SOUTH-

FAR WEST

Alderson-Broaddus 57, Adams St. 51 Colorado Christian 91 Great Falls 63

TOURNAMENT

CCIW/MIAA Classic First Round Carthage 70, Hope 65

Coaches vs. Cancer-Super 8 Classic First Round

Montana St.-Northern 87, Concordia, Alberta 49 Rocky Mountain 104, Augustana, Alberta 52

Gazette Hawkeye Challenge First Round

Iowa 88, Centenary 53 UNC-Greensboro 79, Southern Miss. 78

McCaffrey Classic

First Round MVSU 65, South Florida 57

Purple and Gold Financial tournament First Round

Michigan-Dearborn 59, Olivet 55

SMS Price Cutter Classic First Round Ark.-Little Rock 58, SE Louisiana 48

SW Missouri St. 88, Youngstown St. 52

Salisbury Optimist Classic First Round Alvernia 60, Salisbury 55

Hood 72, Christopher Newport 68, OT Rochester Tech 70, Montclair St. 56

Skidmore Invitational First Round

Skidmore 85, CCNY 58 Wesleyan, Conn. 56, Nazareth, N.Y. 54

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB

NEW YORK YANKEES-Agreed to terms with C John Flaherty on a one-year contract. Traded OF Kenny Lofton and cash to Philadelphia for RHP Felix Rodriguez, and LHP Felix Heredia to the New York Mets for LHP Mike Stanton and cash. CINCINNATI REDS-Named Dan Huston scout.

COLORADO ROCKIES-Named Mike Gallego third base and infield coach and Jeff Bridich manager of minor league HOUSTON ASTROS-Agreed to terms

with SS Jose Vizcaino on a one-year

INDIANA PACERS-Activated G Reggie Miller from the injured list. NEW ORLEANS HORNETS-Traded G Darrell Armstrong to Dallas for G Dan Dickau and a 2005 second-round draft

NFL

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS-Signed DT Anthony Maddox from the practice squad, Waived WR Jermaine Lewis. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS-Signed OL Marques Sullivan. Waived WR Kevin

College

CAMPBELLSVILLE-Named Jim Deaton football coach CHATTANOOGA-Named Don Harris as-

sistant director of marketing and promotions and Anne Wehunt assistant sports information director

EARLHAM-Named Bill Kinsey athletic HOFSTRA-Named Danny McCabe ex-

ecutive associate director of athletics. MICHIGAN STATE-Named Daune Rensing interim volleyball coach. NEBRASKA-Announced the resignation

of Turner Gill, assistant football coach.

By The Associated Press

being turned down by Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops and Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan three years ago before settling on Ron Zook, Florida lured Utah coach Urban Meyer away from his

"dream job" Friday. Meyer snubbed Notre Dame, where he worked as the receivers coach for five years, and agreed to coach the Gators, according to his sister, Gigi Escoe.

Asked whether her younger brother had taken the Florida job, she said, "Yes. It was a tough choice for him, but he's happy with his decision. He had two wonderful choices. He couldn't go wrong.'

Meyer signed a seven-year deal worth \$14 million, according to The Gainesville Sun.

His wide-open offense should be welcomed at Florida, where Zook never could satisfy fans who became accustomed to Steve Spurrier's innovative system that was fun to watch and tough to stop.

Meyer will quadruple his \$500,000 salary and inherit a program with plenty of talent; the Gators finished 7-4, with three losses coming in the waning minutes.

Why he chose Florida over

Notre Dame was unknown.

"He didn't question his decision at all," Escoe said.

Messages left by The Associated Press on Friday at Meyer's office and the office of Utah athletic director Chris Hill were not immediately returned.

Officials at Florida refused to confirm the reports and said there was no immediate plans for a news conference.

"It looks like we're not going to know anything until next week," UF spokesman Steve Orlando said. "The coaching search goes on."

his son had accepted the job.

"All the reports that are out there are correct," he told the St. Petersburg Times. "He told me this morning that he was going to tell Florida he was coming."

A cell phone message left with Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley was not returned.

Meyer called a team meeting for Saturday morning, but Utah players felt like they knew what was coming.

"We kind of feel like he's leaving," offensive lineman Chris Kemoeatu said Friday. "It's not bad that he's leaving. If it was you, you'd probably leave too."

The Utes went 11-0 in their second season under Meyer and were in line for a spot in the

Meyer accepts coaching job in Florida

Bowl Championship Series. Meyer, who also had success at Bowling Green before moving to Utah, has said he planned to coach the bowl game even if he took another job.

Most figured it would be Notre Dame, but the prospect of rebuilding the Irish amid high expectations and tough academic standards may have been daunting. The Fighting Irish fired Tyrone Willingham on Tuesday after three seasons, and immediately targeted Meyer - whose contract included a clause allowing to But Meyer's father, Bud, said leave for jobs at Notre Dame,

Ohio State or Michigan. He met with Notre Dame officials in Salt Lake City on Thursday. But Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley was also in town the last two days trying to work out a deal with the most wanted coach in the country.

The expected hiring was first reported by The Times-Union in Jacksonville, Fla.

Meyer will face equally high expectations with the Gators, but replacing Zook shouldn't be as difficult as following Spurrier.

Spurrier, who won the Heisman Trophy at his alma mater, won six Southeastern Conference championships and the 1996 national title during 12 seasons at Florida.

The Week in Sports

MARK RABAGO

Bong Gamab and Nanding Cajigan, left, strikes a pose with men's open opponents Lito Cabrera and Daniel Son before their 2nd Annual Taga Tennis Tournament encounter Friday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Tinian netters Joe San Nicolas and Archie Montecillo, left, and "local" players John Jenkins and Bobby Nato strike a pose beneath the banner of USS Peleliu, one of the sponsors of the 2nd Annual Taga Tennis Tournament, after their men's 3.0 match Friday.



By MARK RABAGO

ith the end of the year approaching, sports associations are bidding adieu to 2004 with a rash of events.

The Saipan Tennis Association, for instance, is rounding out a successful year by celebrating it with the 2nd Annual Taga Tennis Tournament. Over 100 players are expected to suit up in the next two weeks in doubles, singles, and mixed doubles competition.

Over in the sand court at the Pa-

cific Islands Club, Flush It! and Sleezy Lambleezies are lording it over the field with 11-1 and 10-1 win-loss records, respectively, as the 6th Annual Miller 4-Person Beach Volleyball League is nearing a wrap.

One sport that finally ended its year was the 2004 Commonwealth Football League. All roads led to the CPA Airport Field last Nov. 27, which saw the Shell Chiefs cap their undefeated season with a win over upstart Verizon Nitro.

Unlike football, the 2004 Government Basketball League may have to play until early next year to decide

their championship. Currently only two teams remain undefeated, as Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Public School System lead the pack with identical 4-0 marks.

In bowling, Mike Guirey flirted with a perfect game en rout to winning the November Pepsi King of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament.

Russ Quinn also added a feather in his cap when he won the 20th Annual Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Fun Run in the early morning of Nov. 27. Guam also got the better of Saipan in the Shieh Su Ying Junior Golf Championship later in the afternoon.

Joey Lucido, third from left, is joined by runner-up Zheng Jian Qiang, right, and Corner Pocket owner Ken Philips after winning the Monday 9-Ball Tournament at the Garapan sports bar last Nov. 30.



Taj Van Buren of Public School System drives hard against Mitch Aaron of Department of Labor during their 2004 Government Basketball League game Wednesday.



Monica Yamaguchi proudly shows off her turkey prize after topping the women's 50-andover category of last Nov. 27's 20th Annual Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Fun Run. SHAN SEMAN

John Palacios of Procurement & Supply is hemmed in by Commonwealth Health Center's Tony Raho (0) and Tom Diaz during their 2004 Government Basketball League game Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Bowling Association vice president Ador Dimaano hands November Pepsi King of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament ladies division winner Diane Camacho her winnings Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center. MARK RABAGO

PACRIM

From Page 28

also leading his team to the championship of the 14-and-under division of the PACRIM. The 5'7" aerial acrobat shot 34 points in the Sixers' 86-72 win against the junior team of SYBA, also held last Nov. 26.

He went on to bag MVP honors

after emerging as the top scorer of the age group with a whopping 24.6 points per game norm.

USS PELELIU CLUB

Wang, meanwhile, was honored as NMASA Female Student Athlete of the Month after ruling the middle distances of both the road races and track meets held in November. In the All Schools Cross-Country Championships held last Nov. 13, for instance, the Marianas

High School student took first place in the 18-and-under division and led her school to victory.

A week later, the 15-year-old shattered her personal bests in the 800-meter (2:41) and 1,500m (5:35:88) runs. Bo also excelled in the 20th Annual Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Fun Run held last Nov. 27, taking first place in the 18-and-under age group. Bo will also

be competing in the Oceania Championships this month.

Other athletes nominated for the monthly award were track and field's Darryl Roligat, tennis' Audrey Motto and Russell Buenaventura, and triathlon's Opal Northen, R.J. Knecht, and Dirk Sharer.

Roligat was nominated after sprinting to speeds of 11.52 and 24.62 in the 100m and 200m runs during meets the past month. Motto and Buenaventura were cited following their triumphs in the girls and boys 14and-under divisions of the NMITAsponsored Fall Tennis Classic Tournament. Northen and Knecht were undefeated in the 2004 Kids TRYathlon series, while Sharer finished third in the Rota Blue Triathlon.

LUCKY

From Page 28

other hand, leaned on his handicap to turn back Buenaventura 4-4. However, Buenaventura is expected to come back in a big way next week when he sheds his handicap.

In the third round, Lucido blasted Caisip 4-2 to secure passage to the finals. Zheng, for his part, held on to beat Espiritu after Saipan's No. 1 pool player rallied from a 3-0 deficit to make it interesting.

Zheng drew first blood in the championship but committed an error on the middle balls to literally give away the second game to Lucido. Zheng bounced back in the third game to take a 2-1 lead but that turned out to be his last hurrah, as Lucido won the next three games to secure the 4-2 win.

Lucido had his entire arsenal of shots working for him in the championship round. In the fourth game, the Fun & Games employee made a great combination on the 9-ball to fish the win. He also cleaned the table in the fifth before Lady Luck again smiled on the veteran, as another 9-ball combination appeared in sight in the sixth. He immediately jumped on the opportunity and made the shot to secure the championship. It

was Lucido's first win at Corner Pocket since early September.

Corner Pocket's Monday 9-Ball Tournament rolls off every Monday beginning at 9pm. The competition uses a handicap system to give beginners a chance against top-caliber players. Entry fee is \$10 and first place and second place are guaranteed prize money.

Corner Pocket has also moved its Tuesday 8-Ball Tournament to Thursday. Play starts at 8:30pm. Participants must fork over \$15 to enter the doubleelimination competition. Progressive pot for 8-ball in a break will apply.

Both the regular 9-ball and 8-ball tournaments use the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. For more information on the regular Monday 9-Ball Tournament and Thursday 8-Ball Tournament, please contact Ken Phillips at 233-POOL (7665).



held last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

November Pepsi King of the Lanes winner Mike Guirey is flanked by runner-up Glenn O. Garde, right, and third

place Edgar Talavera during the short awards ceremony



Into the homestretch

With the end of the year fast approaching, sports associations are bidding adieu to 2004 with a rash of events.

27



Magic push past Knicks, 104-98

Cuttino Mobley scored 34 points in his second game back from a groin injury and made two key hustle plays down the stretch Friday to lead the Orlando Magic past the New York Knicks 104-98. 25



28 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

PACRIM heroes get nod

Track and field's Wang also cited

By MARK RABAGO

REPORTER

he Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association named two basketball players and an up-and-coming middle distance runner as athletes of month for November.

NMASA gave the nod to Jeremy Winkfield of Ol'Aces, Manuel Ajoste of Saipan Sixers, and Bo Wang of Marianas High School during their regular monthly meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Winkfield won the NMASA Male Athlete of the Month for November after leading his team to the championship in

18-and-under division of the 2nd Annual Pacific Rim Youth Goodwill Tournament.

In the finals last Nov. 26, Winfield scored 20 points in Ol'Aces' 60-56 win over an all-star team from Guam's Southern Youth Basketball Association.

The 6' forward went on to average 20.6 points per game and collected the most valuable player trophy of the division. Ol'Aces, in a spirit of goodwill, later gave away the trophy to Guam during the awards banquet after SYBA protested their loss.

Ajoste, for his part, received the NMASA Male Student Athlete of the Month plum after See PACRIM on Page 27





Manuel Ajoste of Saipan Sixers poses with his 2nd Annual Pacific Rim Youth Goodwill Tournament 14-andunder basketball MVP trophy, left. Jeremy Winkfield of Ol'Aces shows off his 18-and-under MVP trophy and

Lucky Lucido wins Monday 9-ball

By MARK RABAGO REPORTER



Sometimes you don't only need to be good but also lucky.

Joey Lucido proved this once more in the regular Monday 9-Ball Tournament held last Nov. 29 at Corner Pocket.

Lucido banked on crucial mistakes from finals opponent and defending champion Zheng Juan Qing and some nifty shots of his own to pull off the championship, which spilled over to the morning of Nov. 30 at the Garapan sports bar.

In the first round, Lucido got off to a rousing start following a 4-3 win against a slumping Jer-

ry Soriano. Just two weeks ago, Soriano became only the second player in Corner Pocket history to win four straight in the Monday 9-Ball Tournament.

Other opening round results saw Ruel Mariano slip by Vic S. Hocog. 4-3; Zheng beat Luis Fajardo, 4-2; Primo Rivera getting a nine-ball on the break in the final game to defeat Howard Mallari, 4-3; Robert Sanciangco upset Nolan Cultura, 4-1; Erick Caisip edge Juancho Mendoza, 4-3; Rolly Buenaventura sweep Bert Mettao, 5-0; and Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu put on a clinic in his 5-1 victory over Leonard Sablan.

Lucido had a far easier stint in the second round compared to the first round when he nearly



MARK RABAGO

Joey Lucido would have to thank his lucky stars for winning the Monday 9-Ball Tournament at Corner Pocket last Monday.

skunked Sanciangco 4-1. Zheng also advanced following a 5-1 also had stroll in the park, defeating Mariano 4-2. Espiritu

win over Rivera. Caisip, on the See LUCKY on Page 27



Masahiro Tanaka and Mario Buensuceso, left, pose with fatherand-son Tinian netters Sonny and Benjie Decena during a break in their men's 3.0 match last Friday in the 2nd Annual Taga Tennis

Revenge of the seeded teams

By MARK RABAGO

After upsets marked the first two days of the 2nd Annual Taga Tennis Tournament, order was finally restored when top seeds showed their teeth Friday night at American Memorial Park tennis courts.

In the men's open division, the dark horse team of Daniel Son and Lito Cabrera was tested by greenhorns Bong Gamab and Nanding Cajigan before prevailing 6-3, 6-4.

Top seeds Jorge Olanda and Edwin Maratas, meanwhile, had to tough it out in another three-set match against Richard Asuncion and Babu

Malayil. Olanda and Maratas dropped the first set before coming on strong in the second to force a third. And in the rub-

tas overcame Asuncion and 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).

Third seeds Lacbayo and Mel Pila also advanced following their 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Hector Benitez and Buddy Garote. Earlier the second seeded team of John Wayne Kentaro and Beltau Toshi won by default. Fourth seeds Renato "Dodong" Espanola and Dr. Alberto "Bert" Ventura, however, were not able to escape the upset axe, falling to the dangerous duo of Hector Gutierrez and Buboy Sergio 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, 6-0.

Players from Tinian came in on opposite ends of the win-loss column in the men's 3.0. The pair of Joe San Nicolas and Archie Montecillo at saipan tennis@yahoo.com.

emerged victorious after their 6-0, 6-2 shellacking of "local boys" John Jenkins and Bobby Nato. The father-and-son tandem of Sonny and Benjie Decena were not as fortunate though, as they lost to Masahiro Tanaka and Mario Buensuceso 2-6, 3-6.

The third 3.0 match that evening had Lemuel Arabelo, who works on Saipan in the week days but spends weekends with his family in Tinian, and his partner Doy Ligan, another player from Tinian, carved out a 6-2, 6-3 triumph over Manny Jaraplasan and Roy Banados.

Tinian players would like to thank the Tinian Mayor's

> Office for shouldering their ferryboat rides to and from Saipan during their matches. In the women's open,

Cleofe Santos and ber set, Olanda and Mara- Joy Minor and Letty Jones and Delia Johnson are on to Malayil in a tiebreak to win the next round after beating separate opponents. Santos Ronnie and Minor overwhelmed Sally Wong and Ligaya Paculanang 6-2, 6-2, while Jones and Johnson waylaid the May-September team-up of Nelia Luna and Audrey Motto 6-2, 6-2.

> For more information about the 2nd Annual Taga Tennis Tournament, please call STA president Roy Pangelinan at 256-7769, vice president-internal Nelia Luna at 288-5151 or 287-0859, vice presidentexternal Ricky Castro at 234-7426, and officers Richard Asuncion at 287-0856, Babu Malayil at 286-9745, and Lope Padilla at 286-9733. Inquiries can also be coursed via email